

I'm sure you are receiving numerous comments about this issue. Please allow me to add my own.

I am a firm believer in the protection of intellectual property and make a point of not participating in the many areas where theft of content is rampant. Like all of the major studios, I welcome the creation of a system that protects all content from theft, but I do not understand why the proposed Broadcast Flag is expected to resolve the issue.

First, it would have little effect on the savvy thief who, like thieves of DVD based material, can count on the creation of a system for cracking the code. Therefore, the Broadcast Flag is not likely to thwart the efforts of those who it is intended to stop.

Second, it would have a profound impact on those of us who are mere consumers. Occasionally, after watching a show from my Replay or Tivo (I have both), I find that it is a show my parents may wish to watch. Currently, I can save the show to DVD much as previous generations could have taped the show on a VCR. I can then share the program with my family (I did this just last weekend with the broadcast of the Paul McCartney tour movie on ABC). Will I be able to do the same after the Broadcast Flag is added? We don't have a good answer for that. Logically, the flag would be useless if I could share a copy with Mom and Dad.

As a side issue, I am concerned that my current equipment will not be compatible with future standards and could be rendered obsolete by this ruling.

In closing, I urge you to require the content industry to demonstrate that its proposed technologies will allow for all legal uses and will actually achieve the stated goal of preventing piracy. If they cannot, I urge you not to mandate the broadcast flag.